

Honorable Judge Berg,

Your honor, I would like to start off by saying thank you for all you've done regarding my case & for your compassion & genuine concern for my well being. You have helped me see how my mental health & struggle with addiction affects my decision making. Since being sentenced, I have made some tough but much needed decisions about the direction of my life & cutting out some of my main triggers such as people, places, & things. I am confident that I will accomplish many things in my future & that I will be a testimony to help those still struggling.

I would also like to request your consideration for an early release/amended sentence. I ask this for two reasons. One of which being that on April 16<sup>th</sup> I was served with a petition for adoption of my 7 year old daughter. I have made many mistakes in



my life but I feel as though I am truly at a turning point in my life & would like a fair chance to obtain legal aid & fight for my daughter while also protecting the bond that we share. The petition states that my consent is not needed due to lack of contact & financial support in the past year. However, I can prove otherwise & would like to be able to present my case through proper evidence & facts. I am unable to do that while in here. I can't just let my child slip away. I would like the opportunity to prove to the courts that I am in fact a "fit" mother.

I am also requesting this in light of the COVID-19 pandemic. I suffer from asthma, liver disease (affecting not only my liver but also my bloodstream & immune system), a history of respiratory illnesses such as bronchitis, &



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was recently hospitalized with pneumonia. I also have not received any sort of methadone treatment since being incarcerated & have been sick. All of which making me more susceptible to the Corona Virus. I know I must accept the consequence of my poor decision & that this isn't supposed to be comfortable for me but I feel that I would be safer in Ohio at a Halfway House or Rehab where I am able to get the proper care I need regarding methadone/substance abuse & mental health treatment as well as treatment for my medical issues & potentially COVID-19, should I contract it. I am worried as Michigan is the 3<sup>rd</sup> leading state with the most cases.

I am not trying to "get out" of having to serve my sentence. Regardless of what I want, this is what

I need to get my mind, my health, & my life back on track. I am just asking that I would be allowed to do that in a place where I can truly get the help I need.

I appreciate your time & consideration on this matter.

Sincerely,  
Amber Dargatz

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